It is from the arrangement or diſpoſition of theſe ſeed-veſſels that the characters of the genera in the proper ferns are at this time eſtabliſhed.

In the genus *Ophioglossum*, the ſeed-veſſels are placed in two diſtinct lines, one on each ſide of the filament or tongue, giving it the appearance of a flatted ſpike.

In *Oſmunda*, ſome ſpecies produce their ſeed-veſſels in bunches of ſhort ſpikes at the termination of the fertile leaf, as in Oſmund royal, and Moonwort; in others, they are arranged in lines along the back of the lobes, as in Curled Stone Fern, and Rough Spleenwort.

In *Acroſtichum*, the ſeed-veſſels are diſperſed upon and cover the whole under ſide of the lobes.

In *Polipodium*, the ſeed-veſſels are diſpoſed in circular ſpots on the under ſide of the lobes.

In *Aſplenium* they are placed in right lines, generally running in an oblique direction on the ſupine diſk of the leaves or lobes.

In *Pteris*, the ſeed-veſſels are placed in lines along the under margins of the lobes, which are gently rolled backwards.

In *Adiantum*, the ſeed-veſſels are diſpoſed in ſhort lines, or oval ſpots, near the extremities of the lobes, which are often terminated by their filmy expanſions that are bent back and cover them.

In

In *Trichomanes* the ſeed-veſſel is of a globular figure, ſingle, encloſed in its own proper cover, ſolitary, ſupported on its own filament or footſtalk, which ariſes from the membranaceous verge of the rib at the origin of the ſecond leaves.

This method of arrangement, though the beſt that has yet been adopted, is in ſeveral inſtances vague and defective.

In many ſpecies of the genus Aſplenium, whoſe characteriſtic is to have the ſeed-veſſels arranged in diſtinct lines, they, when arrived at maturity, encreaſe in breadth ſo as to unite at their extremities and cover the whole under ſide of the lobes; this is frequently the caſe in Aſplenium ceterach, Aſplenium ruta-muraria, Aſplenium adiantum nigrum, &c. in the months of September and October.

In ſeveral of the Polipodia, we obſerve the ſame confluency or union in the older ſtages of the plants; ſuch for inſtance as Polipodium fragile, Polipodium thelypteris, and Polipodium fontanum.

In the genus Acroſtichum, whoſe primary character is to have the under ſide of the lobes quite covered with ſeed-veſſels, theſe ſeed-veſſels are diſpoſed in diſtinct round dots on the back of the lobes in Acroſtichum ilvenſe; in Acroſtichum ſeptentrionale they are placed, while immature, in ſhort lines. The firſt of theſe therefore, while young, is a Polipodium, the laſt an Aſplenium.

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